

Minutes

—of the—

Fifty-Seventh Annual Session

—of—

Friendship Association

—of—

*Old Regular Baptist
The Church of Jesus Christ*



Held With The

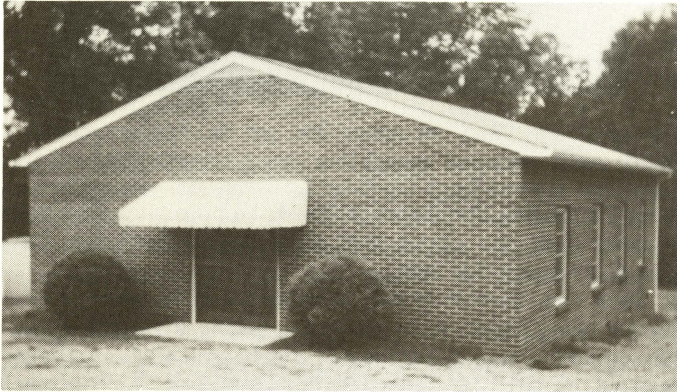
Sand Gap Church

STEPHENSON, WEST VIRGINIA

AUGUST 24, 25, and 26, 1973

Moderator Elder Morgan Belcher
Assistant Moderator Elder Cecil Belcher
Clerk Brother Donald Stiltner
Assistant Clerk Brother Harold Phillips

Resolved that our next Association will be held with The Burks Memorial Church at Hurley, Buchannon County, Virginia, to begin at 10:00 o'clock A.M. on Friday before the Fourth Saturday in August, 1974, and continuing the two following days. Elder Claude Conn is to preach the Introductory Sermon and Elder Bryce Phillips will be his alternate.



The above is a picture of the Elkhorn Church building of Old Regular Baptist as it now stands, the church was organized in 1854, has stood the test of many storms and trials through the ages, remains unmoved and prosperous.



The sitting of this association enjoyed the hospitality and support of the mountain folk and others that make up the Sand Gap Church, it being the host church this year.

The Sand Gap Church House is modestly built, with comfort and convenience being added in recent years. Facing the road, it is situated upon the mountain above Corinne and Stephenson (Barkers Ridge).

Organized in 1916 by Elders S. P. Lambert, J. T. McKinney, and John Simpson from an arm given off by the Guyandotte Church. First organized into the Guyandotte Association and later with the Friendship Association, it has been a home for wayfaring pilgrims and provided refuge for many of the Chief Shepherds' sheep.

Through all these years it has been a wonderful place for God's people to worship, being pastored in recent years, as in the past, by able ministers and the church itself supported by diligent and zealous members, some of which have obtained an enviable age, while many others have passed on.

Though it has hosted the Association a few times in the past, it meets regularly to provide spiritual substance to many.

The lights of the Sand Gap Church can be seen from many points of the mountain, being a beacon both naturally and spiritually to those that may look, and invites both saint and sinner to the loving peace that awaits them within her doors.

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

FIFTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION OF OLD REGULAR BAPTISTS

The Friendship Association of Old Regular Baptists of Jesus Christ met with the Sand Gap Church, August 24, 25, and 26, 1973, at Stephenson, West Virginia.

After singing several of the old songs of Zion, the services were introduced by Elder Robert Lane, and Prayer by same. After which the Introductory Sermon was delivered by Elder Cecil Belcher who used for a text — Romans, 5th chapter and 19 verse. "For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous." He was blessed to preach a wonderful sermon.

The delegates from the several churches then assembled at the church house. After singing, the services was introduced by Elder Elbert Justice from the Friendship Association, and prayer by some.

Then our Moderator called the Association to order and we proceeded to business in the following order:

(1) Called for the letters from the several churches. The same were received and the delegates seated in Council and the queries and requests were referred to the Committee on Arrangements.

(2) The Association then organized by electing: Elder Morgan Belcher, Moderator, Elder Cecil Belcher, Assistant Moderator, Brother Donald Stiltner, Clerk, Brother Harold Phillips, Assistant Clerk.

(3) Called for newly constituted churches and received (2) The Burks Memorial and The White Stone.

(4) The Rules of Decorum were not read, but the delegates were admonished to observe them.

(5) Called for Corresponding Letters from our Sister Association and received the following: (A) Thornton Union, with the following delegates: Elders Raymond Collins, and Bill Sparks and Brothers Buren Amburgey, Curt Polly and George Spangler.

(B) Cumberland — with the following delegates: Elders Ralph Potter, Lester Baker and Sam Eversole.

(6) Called for Transients, Ministers and Members and received: Elders Evans Bailey, and Roscoe O. Quinn.

(7) Agreed by motion and second that the Moderator make all temporary appointments during this session of the Association.

(8) It was ordered by motion and second that we correspond with: Thornton Union, Cumberland, and Mountain Liberty Associations.

(9) Appointed a Committee on Ministry consisting of one delegate from each church with the entire delegation from the Sand Gap Church to arrange the ministry for Friday evening and Saturday morning. The Committee arranged the following Elders to preach: Friday evening: 1st Elder Raymond Collins and 2nd Elder Spencer Burks, 3rd Elder Evans Bailey. Saturday Morning: 1st Elder James Lane, 2nd Elder Roscoe O'Quinn, 3rd Elder Bill Sparks and 4th Elder Mervyn Riffe.

(10) The Clerks were appointed by the Association to write the Corresponding Letters to the Sister Associations.

(11) Appointed a Committee on Arrangements consisting of one delegate from each church, with the Moderators, Clerks, and Corresponding Delegates, and Transients, Ministers and Members to arrange the business for Saturday.

(12) Who will entertain the Committee? The Committee was hosted by Elder Wilbur McKinney.

(13) By motion and second, we adjourned until nine o'clock Saturday morning.

SATURDAY MORNING, AUGUST 25, 1973

Met pursuant to adjournment and after singing by the congregation services were introduced by Elder Raymond Collins and Prayer by same. Then we proceeded with the following business.

(1) Called the roll and marked the absentees.

(2) Called on Committee on Arrangements. Report was received and committee discharged.

(3) Appointed a Committee on Finance consisting of: Brothers John Blevins, Robert Lane and Arthur Riffe.

(4) Called on Treasurer to report. His report is as follows:

Balance brought forward	\$1,247.15
Received from churches	1,164.87
Received for Pictures	47.00
Refund of Traveling Expense 1972	10.00
Donation at the Association	188.27
Attorney Fee Return	<u>50.00</u>
TOTAL	\$2,707.29

Disbursements as follows:

Clerk and Treasurer	\$ 75.00
Assistant Clerk and Secretary	40.00
Moderator	25.00
Traveling Expenses to Association	20.00
Printer's Fee for History Books	243.75
Printer's Fee for Minutes	<u>882.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENSE	1,285.75
BALANCE ON HAND	1,421.54

(5) Called on Ministers report on attending Union Meetings and Association last year. The reports were received and failures excused.

(6) Appointed a committee to arrange the preaching for Saturday Evening and Sunday, who arranged the following brethren to preach: Saturday evening, after singing Elder Harold Burks led in Prayer. 1st Elder Ralph Potter, 2nd Elder Lester Baker. Sunday: Elders Everett Marrs, Ralph Potter, H. A. Lane, and Morgan Belcher.

(7) The letters to the Sister Associations were read and approved and delegates appointed as follows:

THORNTON UNION — Elders Claude Conn, Everett Marrs, Bryce Phillips, Cecil Belcher, Morgan Belcher, Harold Burks, Mervyn Riffe, Tarvin Steele, Wilbur McKinney, Brothers Woodrow Morrison, Bill Mitchell, Donald Stiltner, Harold Phillips, Arnold Fuller, Ralph Steele, Robert Burks, John Blevins, Alda Burks.

CUMBERLAND — We, the Friendship Association will meet again before the Cumberland Meets, at which time we will appoint delegates to attend.

MOUNTAIN LIBERTY — Elders Harold Burks, Cecil Belcher, H. A. Lane, Everett Marrs, Morgan Belcher, Claude Conn, John J. Rinehart, Cloyd Bailey, Alvis Lester, Melvin Lane, Bryce Phillips, Alvin Belcher, Brothers: Arnold Fuller, Donald Stiltner, Herbert Burks, Woodrow Morrison, John Justice, Robert Burks, Bill Mitchell, Bobby Adams, Jimmy Blankenship, and Willie Burks.

(8) Moved and seconded that all obituaries along with memorials and funerals presented to the clerk before going to press be printed in these minutes.

(9) Appointed ministers to attend Union Meetings with the churches as shown under that heading.

(10) Ordered that the Circular Letter written by Elder Bryce Phillips be published in these minutes and that Elder Melvin Lane write the Circular Letter for next year.

(11) Ordered that the Association have 2,000 minutes printed and that the Clerk supervise the printing and the distribution of the same. It was moved and second that the Association have 4,000 copies of the history book printed.

(12) In answer to the request from the Thornton Union Association, that the Friendship Association send Elders to sit in the ordination of a new association, which was named Mountain Liberty Association. The Moderator appointed the following elders to attend: Harold Burks, Cecil Belcher, H. A. Lane, Everett Marrs, Morgan Belcher, Claude Conn. It was moved and second that we send a letter and delegates, letter was to be presented after the new association was organized.

(13) In answer to the request from the Little Samariah Church that the Association build up a treasure to build new church houses for newly organized churches. After discussion the delegates from the Little Samariah Church decided to withdraw their request. By motion and second their request was returned.

(14) In answer to the request from the Little Vine Church, requesting that item 6 in the Constitution be changed to read "The Association shall have a moderator, an assistant moderator, a clerk and an assistant clerk, and treasurer, who shall be chosen by the delegates. Their request was granted.

(15) It was moved and second that the picture of the Elkhorn Church be placed on the first page of the minutes.

(16) It was moved and second that we honor the church hosting the Association, by placing their picture on the second page of the minutes.

(17) It was moved and second that a history of the Friendship Association of Old Regular Baptist, written by Elder H. A. Lane, be published in a separate book and be distributed to the several churches.

(18) It was moved and second that the Association appoint a committee on dissolving fellowship with Union, New Salem, and Sardis Associations and to write a policy on what the Friendship Association stands for. The Moderator appointed the following Elders H. A. Lane, Harold Burks, Everett Marrs, Alvin Belcher, to write the policy. The policy was read before the delegates of the Association, by move and second it was received, and will be printed in the minutes.

(19) In answer to the request from the Little Vine Church and also the request from the Burks Memorial Church asking for the Association for 1974. After a brief discussion the Little Vine Church agreed for the Burks Memorial Church to host the Association for 1974.

(20) Resolved that our next association be held with the Burks Memorial Church at Hurley, Buchanan County, Virginia, to begin at 10:00 a.m. on Friday before the fourth Saturday in August, 1974, and continuing the two following days. Elder Claude Conn is to preach the Introductory Sermon and Elder Bryce Phillips be his alternate.

The Association was closed by Elder Lester Baker, from Cumberland Association, who was blessed to bring many wonderful thoughts and sweet words from on high. He also led in an humble prayer.

Elder Morgan Belcher, Moderator
Elder Cecil Belcher, Assistant Moderator
Brother Donald Stiltner, Clerk
Brother Harold Phillips, Assistant Clerk

SUNDAY MORNING, AUGUST 26, 1973

A large and friendly congregation assembled at the house and after singing a few of the old songs of Zion, services were introduced by Elder Everett Marrs.

(1) Elder Ralph Potter, who used no special text, but quoted several sweet scriptures and was blessed to preach the wonderful words of God.

(2) Elder H. A. Lane, who used for his text, Isaiah, 60th Chapter and 22nd Verse, "A little one shall become a thousand, and a small one a strong nation: I the Lord will hasten it in his time." He was blessed to preach a wonderful sermon.

(3) Elder Morgan Belcher, with a few sweet words brought to a close the Fifty-Seventh Annual Session of the Association.

The Friendship Association cannot begin to fully express its gratitude to the Sand Gap Church for the wonderful manner in which the Association was hosted. God's sweet blessing was not only with the business of the Association but it was much evident also with the hands who bought and prepared the food. Several visiting delegates commented on the sincere courtesy shown them and the wonderful care received at the homes in which they visited. God's children do bear such fruits. May our Lord's love and spirit continue with you for the cause of the upbuilding of His great Kingdom.

The Sand Gap Church wishes to thank the many friends and loved ones throughout the community who so faithfully toiled with the members in caring for the Association. Also a big thank you must go to the members of the sister churches who stood by us in bringing food, working with us or contributing money. May God richly bless you.

MEMORIALS

MAY

SECOND SUNDAY — The Lester Cemetery, Rt. 3, Bassett, Virginia. All preachers are invited to attend along with the Moderator.

JUNE

FIRST SUNDAY — The Bethany Church. Everyone invited and welcome to come.

FIRST SUNDAY — The Guyandotte Church. Everyone invited and welcome to come.

SECOND SUNDAY — The Elkhorn Church. Everyone invited and welcome to come.

THIRD SUNDAY — The Mullins Cemetery in the head of Ritter Hollow. Elders called to attend: Elbert Justice, Jack Lester. All preaching brethren are invited — request by the Roberts Family.

AUGUST

SECOND SUNDAY — The Cline Cemetery, Rt. 3, Bassett, Virginia. Elders called to attend: Everett Marrs, Harold Burks, Mervyn Riffe, and Morgan Belcher.

SEPTEMBER

FIRST SUNDAY — We, the Members of the Pen Ridge Church, request there be a memorial service at Mitchem Ridge. Elders called to attend: Cecil Belcher, Mervyn Riffe, H. A. Lane, Robert Lane.

FOURTH SUNDAY — The Myrtle Valley Church. All preaching brethren of the same faith and order are invited to attend.

UNION MEETINGS

APRIL

SAND GAP — FOURTH SUNDAY — Elders to attend: H. A. Lane, Cecil Belcher, Melvin Lane, J. F. Whitt, John J. Rinehart, Morgan Belcher, Alvin Belcher, Paul Belcher, A. W. Rowe, with Moderator and Assistant Moderator.

MAY

PEN RIDGE — FIRST SUNDAY — Elders to attend: Cecil Belcher, H. A. Lane, Melvin Lane, James Lane, Alvin Belcher, Robert Lane, George Steele, Mervyn Riffe, Wilbur McKinney, and Bryce Phillips.

NEW HOPE — SECOND SUNDAY — Elders to attend: Cecil Belcher, John J. Rinehart, Alvin Belcher, H. A. Lane, Morgan Belcher, Errie Lusk, James Lane, Everett Marrs, J. F. Whitt, A. W. Rowe, with Moderator and Assistant Moderator.

LITTLE VINE — THIRD SUNDAY — Elders to attend: H. A. Lane, Cecil Belcher, John J. Rinehart, Melvin Lane, Robert Lane, Wilbur McKinney, Bryce Phillips, Elbert Justice, Mervyn Riffe, Raymond Collins, J. F. Whitt.

STONEY CREEK — FOURTH SUNDAY — Elders to attend: H. A. Lane, Cecil Belcher, John J. Rinehart, Bryce Phillips, Wilbur McKinney.

MYRTLE VALLEY — FOURTH SUNDAY — Elders to attend: Alvin Belcher, Cecil Belcher, Harold Burks, Elbert Justice, H. A. Lane, James Lane, Melvin Lane, Robert Lane, Everett Marrs, Wilbur McKinney, Bryce Phillips, Mervyn Riffe, Tarvin Steele, Sherman Greer.

JUNE

BETHLEHEM — FIRST SUNDAY — Elders to attend: H. C. Belcher, Cecil Belcher, H. A. Lane, Alvin Belcher, Melvin Lane, Robert Lane, Wilbur McKinney, Bryce Phillips, Sherman Greer, William Lester, John J. Rinehart.

BURKS MEMORIAL — FOURTH SUNDAY — Elders to attend: Cecil Belcher, H. A. Lane, Mervyn Riffe, Morgan Belcher, Robert Lane, Everett Marrs, John J. Rinehart, Bryce Phillips, Elbert Justice, with Moderator and Assistant Moderator.

JULY

FRIENDSHIP — FIRST SUNDAY — Elders to attend: H. A. Lane, Morgan Belcher, Cecil Belcher, J. F. Whitt, Paul Belcher, Everett Marrs, Melvin Lane, Robert Lane, John J. Rinehart, William Lester, Mervyn Riffe, Errie Lusk, with Moderator and Assistant Moderator.

LITTLE BETHEL — SECOND SUNDAY — Elders to attend: H. A. Lane, Cecil Belcher, A. W. Rowe, J. F. Whitt, Bryce Phillips, Melvin Lane, S. R. Greer, Paul Belcher, Alvin Belcher, Robert Lane, with Moderator and Assistant Moderator.

LITTLE SAMARIAH — SECOND SUNDAY — Elders to attend: H. C. Belcher, Claude Conn, Harold Burks, Morgan Belcher, James Lane, John J. Rinehart, Alvis Lester, Wilbur McKinney, with Moderator and assistant Moderator.

WHITE STONE — SECOND SUNDAY — Elders to attend: Morgan Belcher, Harold Burks, Alvin Belcher, H. C. Belcher, H. A. Lane, Cecil Belcher, Everett Marrs.

NEW ZION — THIRD SUNDAY — Elders to attend: H. A. Lane, Cecil Belcher, Alvin Belcher, John J. Rinehart, Wilbur McKinney, Bryce Phillips, Paul Belcher, J. F. Whitt, A. W. Rowe, Melvin Lane, Everett Marrs, Mervyn Riffe, Tarvin Steele, W. R. Lester, H. C. Belcher.

ANTIOCH — FOURTH SUNDAY — Elders to attend: Robert Lane, Bryce Phillips, James Lane, Morgan Belcher, Mervyn Riffe, Alvin Belcher, Wilbur McKinney, Elbert Justice, Calvin Belcher, Paul Belcher with Moderator and Assistant Moderator.

AUGUST

BETHANY — FIRST SUNDAY — Elders to attend: Melvin Lane, H. A. Lane, Cecil Belcher, Alvin Belcher, James Lane, Robert Lane, Cloyd Bailey, Claude Conn, Mervyn Riffe, Everett Marrs, Wilbur McKinney, Calvin Belcher, Tarvin Steele, Bryce Phillips.

GUYANDOTTE — FIRST SUNDAY — Elders to attend: H. A. Lane, Cecil Belcher, Bryce Phillips, James Lane, Alvin Belcher, Elbert Justice, Robert Lane, J. F. Whitt, with Moderator and Assistant Moderator.

ELKHORN — SECOND SUNDAY — Elders to attend: J. F. Whitt, Morgan Belcher, John J. Rinehart, Wilbur McKinney, Bryce Phillips, Elbert Justice, Mervyn Riffe, Claude Conn, Harold Burks, with Moderator and Assistant Moderator.

SWEET HOME — THIRD SUNDAY — Elders to attend: Morgan Belcher, James Lane, J. F. Whitt, Melvin Lane, Robert Lane, Bryce Phillips, Wilbur McKinney, John J. Rinehart, Mervyn Riffe, Calvin Belcher, Alvin Belcher, with Moderator and Assistant Moderator.

CIRCULAR LETTER

Dear Brethren:

Being appointed to write the circular letter to be published at your approval in the 1973 Minutes, I hope God will give me of his spirit to write this letter. Hoping it will draw us closer together in God's love and after trying to pray about this letter my mind goes to one word—Patience.

I know that I cannot cover the subject in detail, for space would not permit.

I feel that patience is one of the most important virtues of our time. I believe with all my heart that the people are confused about many things.

In Psalms 37, we read, "Rest in the Lord and wait patiently for him; fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass. Cease from anger, and forsake wrath: fret not thyself in any wise to do evil. For evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the Lord shall inherit the earth." Brethren, when Moses was leading the children of Israel out of Egypt,

those that waited upon the Lord with patience went over in the promise land, but those without patience in God went after the things of the world and perished in the wilderness.

Isaiah tells us that they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run and not be weary: and they shall walk and not faint.

Jesus, while speaking to the disciples said, "In your patience possess ye your souls."

Paul reminds us to rejoice in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing in prayer. Fight the good fight of faith; lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

In Hebrews 12:1 we read, "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight and sin which doth so easily beset us and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith."

Brothers, sister and friends, had the man who lay by the pool in Jerusalem waiting for the troubling of the waters, had not been patient he would not have been healed. This man had an infirmity thirty eight years when Jesus ask him if he would be made whole. The impotent man answered, Sir, I have no man when the water is troubled to put me into the pool for another would step down ahead of me. So Jesus said, take up thy bed and walk. This man the same day took up his bed and walked.

According to James, Chapter 5:7; "Be patient therefore, brethren unto the coming of the Lord, behold the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth and hath long patience for it, he receive the early and latter rain. Be ye also patient, establish your hearts for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh. Grudge not one against another, lest ye be condemned. Behold the judge standeth before the door."

In I Peter we read, "For what glory is it if when ye be buffeted for your faults ye shall take it patiently? But if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God. For even hereunto were ye called; because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth. And beside this giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue and to virtue knowledge, and to knowledge temperance and to temperance patience and to patience godliness. For if these things be in you and abound they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Paul also tells us that we glory in tribulations; knowing that tribulations worketh patience and patience experience and experience hope and hope maketh not ashamed because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us. For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope. Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be like

minded one toward another according to Christ Jesus, that ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God even the father of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

Paul said, "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded; and if in anything ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you. Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing."

Brethren, Sisters and many friends that read this letter, I hope it will be of some comfort to you and that you will put all your trust in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Sinner friends, repent of your sins and believe on Jesus. The bible says that he that believes and is baptized, shall be saved; but he that believes not shall be damned.

May the Lord of all glory ever keep you in his love.

Your unworthy servant,
Bryce Phillips

RULES OF DECORUM

1. The Association shall be opened and closed by prayer.
2. A Moderator and a Clerk shall be chosen by the members.
3. Only one member shall speak at a time. He shall rise from his seat and address the Moderator when he desires to speak.
4. The person thus speaking shall not be interrupted in his speech by any one, except the Moderator, until he is done speaking.
5. A speaker shall strictly adhere to the subject which is being discussed, and in no wise cast reflection on the brother who had spoken before him, or make remarks about his slips and imperfections, but shall fairly state his case as he can so as to convey his views and ideas.
6. No person shall abruptly break off from the Association or absent himself without permission from the Association.
7. No person shall speak more than three times on any one subject without permission from the Association.
8. No person shall have the liberty of laughing during the sitting of the Association. No person shall whisper to another while any one is speaking publicly.
9. No member of this Association shall address another in any other terms or appellation than that of "Brother."
10. The Moderator shall not interrupt or prohibit any member from speaking until he gives his view and light on the subject discussed, unless the speaker violates the Rules of Decorum.
11. The names of the members of the Association shall be enrolled by the Clerk and called over as often as the Association requires.
12. The Moderator shall have the same right of speech that other members have; provided the chair be filled; he shall have no vote unless the Association be equally divided, then he may cast the deciding vote.

13. Any member who shall willingly and knowingly violate any of the rules of this decorum shall be reprov'd by the Association as it thinks proper.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. We believe in only one true living God, the Father, Son, and the Holy Ghost, and that these three are one, equal in power, essence and glory.

2. We believe in the scriptures of the Old and New Testament, that they are written words of God, and that they are the only rule of faith and practice.

3. We believe in the free atonement of Jesus Christ; that He tasted death for every man, and that salvation is offered to all on the equal terms of the Gospel.

4. We believe in the doctrine of original sin and of man's inability to recover himself from the fallen state he is in by nature; therefore the Saviour is needed for our redemption.

5. We believe that sinners are called to repentance and that repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and regeneration are necessary, previous to literal baptism.

6. We believe in the doctrine of election by grace; for by grace, are ye saved through faith.

7. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God, only by the imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ, and that after regeneration they shall grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord.

8. We believe that baptism is an ordinance of the Church of Jesus Christ on earth, and that the proper way to administer the ordinance is to immerse the candidate all over.

9. We believe that the Lord's Supper and feet washing are the commands of the Saviour, and that they should be kept up and practiced by His true believers until He comes again.

10. We believe in the resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust, and that the joys of the righteous and the punishment of the wicked will be eternal.

11. We believe that no minister has the right to administer the ordinances and commands of the Gospel Church, except such as are legally baptized and ordained by the hands of a regular chosen presbytery.

12. We believe it to be the duty of all church members to contribute to the Association for the defraying of the necessary expense of the church, and to remember the poor according to their several abilities.

13. We believe that every doctrine that goes to encourage people to indulge in their sins or cause them to settle down on anything short of saving faith in Christ for salvation, is erroneous. Such doctrine will be rejected by us.

14. We believe that the Church of Christ is a congregation of faithful believers in Christ; that they have been baptized into the fellowship of the church; that they have put on Christ, and have agreed to keep up a

Godly discipline according to the rule of the church.

15. We believe that Jesus Christ is the first resurrection from the dead, and that He lives forever, the head and king of the church.

16. None of the above articles shall be so considered as to hold with particular election and reprobation so as to make God partial, directly or indirectly, or to injure any of the children of men.

CONSTITUTION

From a long series of experiences, we, the Old Regular Baptists, the "Church of Jesus Christ", being baptized upon a profession of our faith in Christ, are convinced of the necessity of a combination of churches in order to perpetuate a union and communion among us and to keep the order and rules of an Association according to the following plan of government:

1. The Association shall be composed of the members chosen by the different churches in our union and sent to represent them in the Association; upon their producing letters from their respective churches, certifying to their appointment, they shall be entitled to a seat.

2. In the letter there shall be expressed their number in full fellowship, those received by letter, those baptized, dismissed, excluded, and deceased since our last Association.

3. The members thus chosen and convened shall have no power to lord anything over God's heritage, nor shall they infringe on any of the internal rights of the churches of the union.

4. All matters coming before the Association shall be decided by a majority of the members present.

5. The Association, when convened, shall be ruled by a regular and proper decorum.

6. The Association shall have a Moderator, Assistant Moderator, a Clerk and an Assistant Clerk, and Treasurer, who shall be chosen by the delegates.

7. New churches may be admitted into the union when found to be orthodox and orderly upon examination; churches that desire to be admitted shall petition by letter and delegates; and every church in the union, after being admitted, shall be entitled to representation in the Association.

8. Every query presented to the Association by a church, being first debated in the church, shall be taken up by the Association.

9. Every motion made and seconded shall be considered by the Association.

10. We think it necessary and right to have a fund for the defraying of expenses of the Association; we think it is the duty of each church in the union to contribute such sums as it thinks proper and send it by its delegates to the Association to be placed in the hands of a treasurer whom the Association selects. The treasurer shall be held accountable for all moneys placed in his hands, and shall use said money as the Association directs.

11. There shall be an Association book kept wherein the proceedings of every Association shall be recorded by the secretary whom the Association selects, and said secretary shall receive a compensation for his work.

12. The minutes of the Association shall be read and corrected, if need be, and signed by the Moderator and Clerk.

13. The Association shall have power (1) To provide for the general union of the churches. (2) To observe inviolable a chain of union among the churches. (3) To give the churches all the necessary advice in matters of difficulty. (4) To inquire into the cause why the churches fail at any time to represent themselves into the Association. (5) To appoint any member or members, and with their consent to transact any business it thinks necessary. (6) To withdraw from any church in the union which shall violate the rules of the Association or deviate from the orthodox principles of religion. (7) To admit any orderly minister to our faith and order to a seat with us in our Association. (8) To designate a time and place for its next meeting so as to have it convenient for all the churches of the union as much as possible. (9) To adjourn and meet at any future time and place it thinks proper.

POLICY OF THE FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION OF THE OLD REGULAR BAPTIST

The Friendship Association at the 57th Annual Session, chose a committee consisting of Elders H. A. Lane, Everett Marrs, Harold Burk and Alvin M. Belcher, to set forth in order the policies of this association.

These policies have been in existence since the organization of this association in the year 1917. Under them, God has richly blessed her and our churches have grown and prospered.

Our major effort in these policies has been to preach Jesus Christ and Him crucified, to be the way, the truth, and the life, and the manifestation of His love, mercy and grace to all mankind.

It has been, and will continue to be our policy to govern our churches by our Rules of Decorum, Articles of Faith and Constitution as set forth by our founding fathers.

We contend that the association is an advisory council, rather than a law making body as previously believed by some of its members, and that all issues should be settled in the churches if possible.

In conclusion, it is the prayer of this committee that we endeavor, God being our helper, to abide by these resolutions and advise not only our preaching brethren, but all of our brethren to also abide by them and earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the Saints.

We, the Friendship Association, at the 57th Annual Session, regarding the eleven churches which violated our Rules of Decorum, by abruptly breaking off from our Association, at our 56th session namely:

Bee Branch	North Spring	Samariah
Little Dove	Panther Creek	Mount Zion
Little Zion	Pine Grove	Philadelphia

Mountain Home and Mary Lou, because of a resolution adopted by the Association in answer to three major questions, which had been a controversy for several years.

First: Concerning sisters cutting their hair.

Second: Preaching funerals with other faith.

Third: Singing from note song books in our worship services.

Three associations advised and encouraged these churches in this action namely: Union, New Salem, and Sardis, and received into their fellowship these churches which were in disorder. Therefore we feel they are in disorder for violating the orthodox principles of Regular Baptist Faith.

We therefore advise our churches not to use them or any member of the above named churches in our worship services.

We therefore as of this date, August 25, 1973 do explain the following items to prevent any misunderstanding in the future:

First: We believe the Church of our Lord Jesus Christ to be the highest ecclesiastical tribunal under Heaven.

Second: Each individual church holds its own key and is the sole judge of its members and no other power has the authority over the church.

Third: The Friendship Association shall endeavor by the help of the Almighty, to work in our Churches for the up-building of God's great cause and His Kingdom.

Fourth: We by the help of God shall endeavor to remain steadfast, unmovable, upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets and Jesus Christ being the chief corner stone.

Fifth: Be it further resolved that God did not give us the power or authority to judge. We believe that while we look on the outward appearance, God looketh on the heart.

Taking into consideration, the language of our Lord which said, "Whosoever shall offend one of these little ones that believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck and drowned in the depth of the sea."

Therefore, considering these facts as they are, we will have it plainly understood, we will not exclude our sisters from fellowship, who have cut their hair, so long as she otherwise has the fruits of a Christian.

Also, it may be further understood, we won't turn away from the doors of our Churches, some precious little soul who tells us in tears that she feels in her heart, God has forgiven her sins.

Sixth: Concerning preaching funerals with other Faith.

We, the original Friendship Association have in the past worked in funerals with whosoever we were called, being careful not to get ourselves in disorder with our respective Church, nor to wound the feelings of the brethren, but rather to comfort and sooth the feelings of the bereaved parties. We therefore shall endeavor by the help of our Lord, to continue in the future as in the past.

Seventh: Concerning our singing from note song books.

The Bible, the Book of Ephesians, Chapter 5, Verse 19 reads, "speaking to yourselves in psalms, hymns and spiritual songs, making melody in your heart to the Lord. We therefore believe it is the privilege of the church to sing note songs or from the old hymn book, or any songs as long as they are sung for the edification of the church.

In Conclusion, may our eternal King who brought again from the dead, our Lord Jesus Christ, keep us in love and peace, that we may walk in his steps until our work is finished and we reach our eternal reward.

Written by Elders H. A. Lane

Harold Burk

Everett Marrs

Alvin M. Belcher

OBITUARIES

AYERS BELCHER



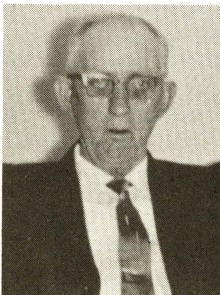
By request of Brother Ayers Belcher's family I will try in the humblest way I know to write an obituary concerning this wonderful brother.

In the year of our Lord July 28, 1904 Brother Ayers came to live for a season with his Blessed Father and Mother, Lewis and Peggy Belcher. After a short while he was united in marriage to Myrtle Sexton Belcher, to this union were born three sons and three daughters, which still remain among us. Brother Ayers joined the Old Elkhorn Church on Belcher Mountain in September, 1949. For many years he served as a deacon and fulfilled his duty well, I don't know of anyone that ever said or ever will say a harsh word against Brother Ayers, the warmth of his presence would surely encourage any pilgrim in this journey of Life.

I was blessed many times to visit with him and his family in their home on Belcher Mountain. Don't think there was ever a time that he didn't want to sing and pray. Enjoyed singing as much as anyone could, a wonderful old time brother, which was dearly loved by all who knew him. But our glorious heavenly Father looked down on March 17, 1973 and bid him come home to be with the others that left long ago. Now I know each of us miss him more than we are able to tell but I would like to say to Aunt Myrtle and all of her six children and the grandchildren we have lost one we all loved and one that dearly loved us. I know the family circle has been broken but if we make the right moves in this life we can by the grace of our Savior once again make the circle complete. My prayers are that God in his wonderful Love and Mercy will make each of us able laborers that when it's over down here for us that we may enter that Beautiful city to live with all the redeemed forever, never to part never a tear, but peace, joy and happiness forever.

Written by your unworthy servant,
Cecil Belcher

JAMES MONROE KELL



He was born April 17, 1894 and died Jan. 14, 1973 at the age of 78 years and 8 months.

He married Martha Blevins, March 1, 1918 and to their union were born 3 boys; William, Nelson and George; 3 girls; Hazel, Betty and Ruth. He was preceded in death by George who died in April 1965.

As I try to write this obituary words seem so empty to try to express our feelings because over the years our relationship had bound us together as a father and son.

In brief we try to give this account of "Uncle Jim" and "Aunt Martha" for throughout the churches that was what everyone called them.

In our thirty years in the Little Vine Church, Aunt Martha stood with us, praying and often in the spirit, showing the praises of God.

On the 3rd Sunday in May 1963, the Little Vine Church was holding it's sacrament and foot washing meeting, the house was overflowing the meeting was being brought to a close, shouts and praises were ringing throughout the building, but through the crowded isle Uncle Jim made his way to the front of the church and with tears running down his cheeks, made a sweet confession of how God saved him and gave him a mind to take up fellowship with the church.

It seemed from that day on Uncle Jim tried to make up for the years he had wasted. He was ordained to serve as Deacon and was faithful to every call of the church.

In early 1972 the doctors found he had cancer with only a few months to live, but God gave him an easier way to go. On Friday he took a flu virus and on Sunday evening he quietly fell asleep and entered into that rest that await the people of God.

Written by
Elder Morgan Belcher

ELI PRATER



With a sad, aching heart and all of this lonely feeling, I will try to write the obituary of my dearly beloved husband, Eli Prater.

He was born June 2, 1904 and died March 20, 1973 at the age of 68 years, 9 months and 17 days.

He was married to Lucy E. Prater Dec. 18, 1924 and to them were born 14 children; 5 daughters and 9 sons.

He said to me just before he died, he had a better home to go to when his suffering was over down here.

Dear Husband and father from us you are gone,
Your voice from us is stilled.
A place is vacant in this home
That never can be filled.

Written by his wife,
Lucy Prater

WILLIAM A. AND AMANDA M. JUSTICE

Photo
Not
Available

With a sad and broken heart I will try to write obituaries of both my grandparents, William A. and Amanda Matney Justice.

Grandpa Bud died at the age of 87 years and 5 months on Jan. 23, 1971.

Grandma Amanda died at the age of 79 years and 5 months on Jan. 11, 1972.

They were married 63 years and to them were born 12 children, 3 of which preceded them in death. Seven sons, 2 daughters, 66 grandchildren and 62 great grandchildren are left to mourn the loss.

Their funerals were preached the 3rd Sunday in August in Trace Fork Hollow at the Justice Cemetery, Panther, W. Va. Called preachers are: Elders Morgan Belcher, Everett Marrs, Harold Burks and Claude Conn.

I would like to say to their children and grandchildren that if you want to see them again then live your life for Jesus and start on the road they took long ago.

Dark are the windows, no flickering glow,
Lights up the old home we used to know.
But in the darkness those faces so fair,
Smile down from Heaven, for mother and daddy are there.

Written by their granddaughter
Mrs. Opal Matney

FLOSSIE WALKER

With the help of God, I will try to write an obituary of my step-mother, Flossie Walker.

Flossie was born on Jan. 9, 1906 and passed from this life on Jan. 11, 1973, making her stay on Earth, 67 years and 2 days.

She was a member of the Myrtle Valley Old Regular Baptist Church and was loved by all who knew her.

She had one daughter, Christene, by a previous marriage, and 7 step-children.

I would like to say to Daddy, Christene and all who loved her she is gone from us, but we can always cherish the fond memories that she left us. We can all meet her again if we live true and faithful to God, just as she did.



Written by her step-daughter
Della Blankenship

ELIHUE MITCHEM



By the help of God I will try to write an obituary of our dear departed brother, Elihue Mitchem, who passed from this life on September 27, 1971.

He was married to Katie Addair Mitchem, and to this union were born 8 children; Clinton, Clifford, Clayton, Marie, Elsie, Glenna, Elizabeth and Shirley.

Brother Elihue and Sister Katie joined the Myrtle Valley Church, in 1947 and were faithful members and deacons.

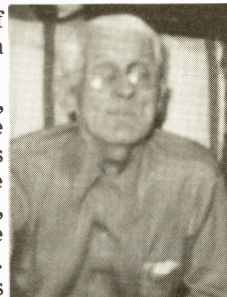
Brother Elihue is gone from us, but I'd like to say to his family and friends, don't weep for him, for just beyond the shadows of this life, we will meet him again where we'll shout and sing the praises of God throughout the endless ages of eternity.

Written by a brother in Christ
Jimmy Blankenship

LANTY ROBERTS

By request, I will try to write, by the help of the Lord, an obituary of my beloved brother in Christ, Lanty Roberts.

He was born Oct. 23, 1893 and died Aug. 31, 1972 at the age of 79 years. He was the son of the late Eliege Roberts and Laura Riffe Roberts. He was married to Ella Lockart Roberts and to them were born four sons: Luther, Bryan, Quincy and Hartsel, and one daughter: Bethel. He had twenty-five grandchildren and twenty-two great-grandchildren.



One son preceded him in death and another has died since brother Roberts death. We know that by the teaching of God's word that death is appointed unto all.

He joined the Old Regular Baptist Church Aug. 7, 1966. I know that Brother Lanty is missed in the homes of his loved ones and also in the church. We were blessed to be in his home and have prayer with him several times and he talked about the good Lord, and good things yet to come.

I would say to his sister Ella, children, grand and great-grandchildren that if you want to meet brother Lanty again, you must believe on the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ and strive to enter at the Gate, for straight is the gate and narrow the way that leads from earth to Heaven.

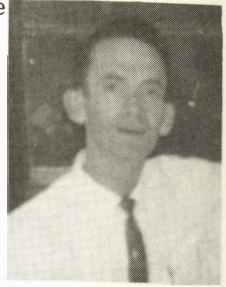
Written by an unworthy brother
Elder Mervyn Riffe

JIM BAILEY

With much sadness I will try to write the obituary of my beloved brother-in-law. He was born January 31, 1935, and died January 4th, 1966, making his stay on earth thirty-one years, eleven months, and twenty-seven days. He was the son of Thomas C. and Bertha Bailey.

He was married to Stella (Cline) Bailey on August 13, 1966. To this union was born one daughter, Aster Marie Bailey.

He held high moral standards of life, and worked hard to support his family. He did not drink, or use profane language. He was very quiet, thoughtful, and easy to get along with. Although he was not in our family very long, we miss him very much. He did not have membership in a church, but he lived a christian-like life. We feel that our loss is Heaven's gain.



A dear one from us is gone;
A sweet voice is still,
A place in our hearts is vacant;
That can never be filled.

Written by
Lovis Cline

JANE PRESNELL



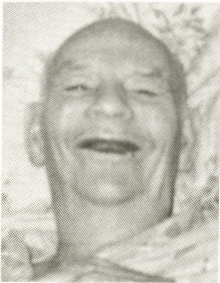
With much love I'll try and write an obituary of my beloved Mother, Jane Presnell. She was born in 1895 and died July 5, 1973, making her stay on earth, 78 years. She was the daughter of Adam Blankenship and Pricy Blankenship. She was born in Buchanan County, Va. and lived out her days there. She was married to Cyrus Blankenship. They had three children. Her husband and one child preceded her in death, leaving two sons; George and Burl Blankenship. She married William H. Presnell and to this union there were two boys; Clyde and Clark, and two girls; Helen and Blanch.

She was a loving Mother and she worked hard to raise us children. Her door was always open to feed the hungry and she was always kind to her neighbors. She was always ready to help those in need. She joined the Old Regular Church and was baptized by Elder Claude Conn and Elder Cloyd Bailey, and I'll never forget how she rejoiced after she was baptized.

She was in ill health for quite a while but she bore the pains in patience as long as she lived. I believe the love she had spread about in her heart was much stronger than death, so I'll say to us children if we want to see Mother again we must do as she did in her last days. We have to walk in the foot steps of Jesus and be born of His spirit. I hope the blessing of the Lord will be forever upon us.

Written by her daughter,
Helen Prater

EDWARD PRESTON SIZEMORE



To the best of my ability and with the help of God I will try to write an obituary of my precious Father.

He was born June 30, 1895 and died Feb. 1, 1973 making his earthly stay 77 years and 7 months. He is the son of Issac Sizemore and Rene Mitchem.

On Sept. 6, 1913 he married Peggie Jane Greene. To their union were born 16 children. Six children preceded him in death. He has five boys; Edward, Jr., Leroy, Arried, Dewey and Issac. He has five girls Mrs. Cora Lambert, Mrs. Eliza Dowell, Mrs. Sue Burkett, Mrs. Ruby Sizemore and Mrs. Mary Lafferty. He has two foster daughters; Mrs. Sue Mitchem, and Wilma Jean at home. He has 39 grandchildren and 30 great-grandchildren.

Dad was a member of the Old Regular Baptist Church at Pen Ridge. He spent a good part of his life preaching, until the Lord decided that he should spend the remaining three years of his life bedfast. But even in bed as long as he could sit up he wanted his Bible. When he couldn't see to read his Bible, he would ask his family to read to him and he always prayed. His heart was overjoyed by a visiting brother or sister. I believe for the last two months of his life he did not suffer, but was waiting to hear his master say "Come".

He is sadly missed by his wife and children.

Written by Foster Daughter
Wilma Jean Sizemore

JESSIE MILLS

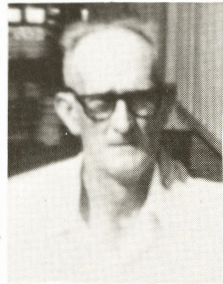
By the help of the Lord we will try to write the obituary of our beloved husband and father, Jessie Mills.

He was the son of the late James Mills and Peggy Jane Mills — Woods. He was born near Herndon, W. Va. in 1899 and died Feb. 7, 1973. He would have been 79 his next birthday, June 27.

He was married to Sarah Elizabeth Green, April 22, 1929. To them were born 9 children: Russel of Parkersburg, W. Va., Jessie of Columbus, Ohio, Jamie of Pt. Pleasant, W. Va., Willis of Silver Springs, Md., Betty of Otsego, W. Va., Trula of Mullens, W. Va., Margie of Wichita Falls, Tex., Vona of Ronceverte, W. Va. and Peggy Rae at home.

He joined the Old Regular Baptist in 1951 and was baptized, after he had had a serious accident, by the late Elder John Rinehart. He was led into the water on his crutches. He was faithful to his church and never missed except when he was in the hospital.

He was in the hospital the last three Februarys. The first two he had surgery, the last with a stroke and heart attack when God saw fit to



take him to a better place where he would suffer no more.

He was sick on the Sunday morning before he took the stroke in the evening. I begged him not to go to church that morning, but he said yes he was going. He never got too sick to go if he could sit up at all.

He was serious in his belief and did not believe in any foolishness. He never talked about anyone and did not like to hear anyone else talk about others. He read his Bible every day and always prayed everyday although he was a quiet person.

We miss him so much and feel within our hearts he has gone to a better place and has paid the debt we will all have to pay.

My advice to the children and everybody else is, if you have not accepted the Lord, repent of your sins while you have an opportunity, and live closer to Him each day, so we can meet daddy some sweet day where we will not have to separate anymore.

Written by his wife and daughter
Sarah Mills and Peggy

GEORGE ALLEN

With the help of the Lord I will try to write an obituary of my precious husband who was born January 25, 1905 and died October 25, 1972.

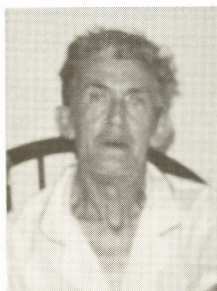
He was an ordained minister in the Old Regular Baptist Church for 44 years.

He leaves his wife, two brothers, three sisters and many friends to mourn his passing. Our loss was Heaven's gain.

Everything that human hands could do was done to keep him with us, but with all this and the prayers of christian people it was not enough, because on October 25, 1972, at the hospital at Grundy, the Lord called him home to sleep in Christ Kingdom.

I know that I did everything in my power for him and worried about him day and night. My life is lonesome now, but if we are kind and helpful, as he was, we will meet him in the land where trouble is over.

Written by his wife,
Virgie Allen



ALFRED FELIX BOWLES

With God's help and with a very sad, aching heart, I will attempt to write an obituary of my dearly beloved husband, Alfred Felix Bowles.

He was born April 22, 1913 and died January 24, 1973. He was the son of Perry Alex and Liza Ann Bowles.

He leaves his wife, Elvia; 3 sons, Richard, Raymond and Ernest; 2 stepsons, Madison and Roy Lee Delph; 2 daughters, Marie Long and Margaret Lockhart; 3 stepdaughters, Ruby Mary Woodard, Nancy Lockhart and Lola Nasatsky. He also leaves



22 grandchildren; 3 brothers; 2 sisters and many friends to mourn the loss. He was loved everywhere and was one of the best husbands and fathers anyone could want.

He joined the Old Regular Baptist on April 2, 1972 and we both were baptized on May 7, 1972.

He was always ready to go to church even when he was not able. He surely loved his brothers and sisters in the church.

Dear your seat at home and in church is vacant and the voice I loved is still. The last words he said to me were, "Honey, I am going home to walk with God." How sweet it sounded to me.

When he was too sick to go to church we would have services at home and God always blessed. He loved to hear his brethren and especially Brother Harold Burk's prayers and Brother Morgan Belcher's preaching.

To his children, relatives and friends who have not accepted Christ — if you want to be with him again you will have to believe in the same God he did.

The loss is greater than I can hardly bear, but by God's help I mean to meet him someday. I ask my friends to pray for me. God only knows how I miss him.

Written by his wife
Elvia Bowles

SALLIE B. MANN



With a deep and sad heart, I'm writing the obituary of Sallie B. Mann.

Sister Sallie lived at Red Sulphur Springs. She was born Aug. 6, 1905 and died Sept. 7, 1972 making her stay on earth 67 years. She was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Boggs and beloved wife of Russell Mann. To this union were born two sons, Russell and Omar. She also left many sad brothers and sisters to mourn her passing.

She was such a sweet and nice lady, loved by all who met her, especially little children. Without her it seems a sad and lonelier place. But, our loss is Heavens gain. With hope and trust in God we'll meet her once again.

Written by her friend,
Susan Belcher

ARRIE MEADOWS



By request and with the help of the Lord, I will try to write the obituary of a dear sister in Christ, Aunt Arrie Meadows.

She was born August 9th, 1886, died January 5th, 1973, making her stay on earth 86 yrs., 6 mos., and 26 days.

She was the daughter of John and Sarah Ellison. Married to Fred Shepherd, to this union was born one daughter. She later married Judson Meadows and to this union was born two sons and five daughters. One son, daughter, and her husband preceded her in death.

She leaves five daughters, one son, twenty-one grandchildren several great grandchildren and a host of friends to mourn their loss.

Aunt Arrie joined the Little Bethel Church, many years ago, and was faithful to attend as long as she was able. Her greatest blessing was to attend the union meetings and take part in the feet washings.

Aunt Arrie was sick for a long time, she bore her sickness with patience waiting for the Lord to call her home, where she would never be sick again.

I would like to say to the children, if you want to see your mother again you must accept Christ as your Saviour and live for Him as she did.

Aunt Arrie is missed greatly by the church, her loved ones, and friends, we feel our loss is Heavens gain. To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord.

Written by
A sister in Christ
Glema Lester

STELLA MAE WICKLINE

With the help of the Lord, and our dear Savior, Jesus Christ, I will try to write the obituary of Stella Mae Wickline.

Sister Stella was born April 15, 1921 and departed this life Sept. 4, 1972, making her stay on earth 51 years 4 months, and 19 days. She leaves her husband, George Emmett Wickline 2 children, 2 grandchildren with many brothers and sisters, and a host of friends to mourn her loss. She joined the Bethlehem Church June 6th, 1959. She always filled her seat in the church. She was a wonderful wife and mother and a friend to all who knew her.

I believe with all my heart that she is resting in the arms of our Savior Jesus Christ.

Written by the
Clerk of the Bethlehem Church
Carroll Belcher

ELLA MAY LANE



I will attempt by request to write an obituary of Sister Ella May Lane, wife of Andrew J. Lane.

Born September 5th 1895 deceased this life April 14, 1973, her stay on earth being approximately 78 years.

She was the daughter of the late George and Sarah Ann Green.

In the year of 1923 she was married to Andrew Lane who still survives and to this union five children were born, four daughters, Mrs. Gracie Huff, Mrs. Lena Zoon, Mrs. Fannie Williams, and

Mrs. Mamie Sacco, one son, Kester Lane, who in addition to the husband these five children are left to mourn her loss. Also surviving are two stepdaughters, three sisters, and two brothers, along with many other relatives, friends, and neighbors, and those who loved her from all walks of life.

She was a sweet tender mother, a faithful loving wife, humble and kind to those who knew her. Sister Ella while yet a young lady took Jesus Christ as her Saviour and was baptized into the fellowship of the Antioch Church of Regular Baptist, from that day until death she lived a consistant Christian life, proving by her daily life, by her walks, her conversation, her humbleness, and kindness, to be a true Christian.

Many times in life have we had the pleasure of visiting in this humble home and her conversation for the most part was about Heaven and things eternal.

Several months before God called her from this world her health began to fail, she gradually grew weaker, but never at any time lost her faith in God, after being admitted to the hospital her faith was still unmoved, and repeated the phrase I am just waiting on my Jesus to come and get me.

Early on the sad morning of Saturday, April 14, when the beautiful sun began to shine over the eastern horizon, when laborers goeth forth to their work and their labor, Sister Lane finished her work in this world, closed her eyes in death, her voice was hushed, her body lay lifeless, the God in whom she had so faithfully trusted, called her spirit home — to glory, there to wait the adoption to witness the redemption of the body, which on the resurrection morning will be reunited spirit and body and go through the beautiful gates into the City of God.

In conclusion would like to say to Brother Andrew although your trouble be great, your burdens heavy, your grief and sorrow hard to bear, may you by Gods loving spirit put your trust in him, to cast our cares upon him for he careth for us.

To her children, her daughters, and her son also her grandchildren, may I appeal to you today not to forget your mother who loved you, who prayed for you, who would have given had it been necessary her life for you. I am sure that each of you wonderful children would like to see mother again, would you let me beg to you (for I also love you) if you haven't accepted Jesus into your precious hearts, would you do so in answer to her prayers, and not only her prayers but also those of your dear old Dad, and your Christian friends, every where, then when

our time comes to leave this world we will be ready to go and live with mother, with Dad, friends and loved ones, and best of all with Jesus Christ our Lord.

Written by
H. A. Lane

HARVEY H. TAYLOR

Harvey H. Taylor was born November 28, 1882 and departed this life November 20, 1967, lacking eight days making his stay on earth 85 years. He was the son of the late Issac and Jane Taylor. When a young man he was married to Julie Walls in 1904 to this union 6 children was born 5 sons and 1 daughter, 2 sons, Clarence and Charles, both deceased. The daughter Fannie Mae died in infancy.

Those living are William I. Taylor, Beckley, W. Va. Ernest N. Taylor, Shady Springs, W. Va. Luther H. Taylor, Mabscott, W. Va.

His first wife passed away July 6, 1919. He was then married to Mary Scarbery Green December 1919 — to this union was borned 3 children: 2 sons, 1 daughter, Jubel J. Taylor, Winston Salem, N. C., Harvey H. Junior died in infancy, Mrs. Herman (Beulah) Miller, Ballard, W. Va. Brother Taylor professed a hope in Christ and was baptised in the fellowship of the Old Regular Baptist Faith in the year 1924 at Beckley Junction, W. Va. He was baptized by the late Elder Gordie Belcher and for many years his membership was with the Elkhorn Baptist Church, but, in later years he belonged to Bethelhem Baptist Church at Red Sulphur Springs, W. Va. Funeral services were held at Broyles Funeral Chapel with Elder Hersey Lane officiating. Burial was in Orchard Cemetery at Orchard, W. Va.

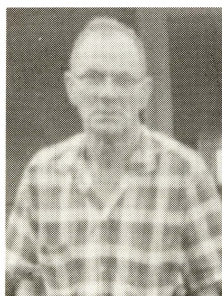


ELDER CLIFFORD GREEN

Born August 17, 1905. Deceased this life January 25, 1972.

He was the Son of Elder Paris Phillip Green and Mary Matilda (Scarberry) Green.

On February 11th, 1932 he was married to Sister Lucy (Wiles) Green. In the year of 1934, he made a profession of Faith in Christ, and was baptised into the fellowship of the Guyandotte Regular Baptist Church of the Friendship Regular Baptist Association.



His membership was with the Little Vine Regular Baptist Church at Big Four when he deceased. Surviving are two stepdaughters: Ethel Schrader and Pauline Burks, one foster daughter, Judy Banditos of Freeport, New York.

Two Brothers, Elder Walter Green of Tams, W. Va. and Thomas N. Green of Straughn, Indiana, also two Sisters, Annie Workman, Massing, Idaho, and Mrs. Malissie Whitt of Elkton, Md., one half brother Jubel

Taylor of Winston Salem, N. C. and one half sister, Mrs. Beulah Miller of Ballard, W. Va. His mother, Mary M. Taylor of Ballard, W. Va. followed him in death, February 8, 1972. Funeral service for Brother Clifford was held Jan. 29, 1972 at the Little Vine Regular Baptist Church at Big Four, and burial at the Belch Mountain Cemetery. Conducting the funeral service were Elder H. A. Lane, Elder Morgan Belcher and Elder Cecil Belcher.

As ever a Brother in Christ
Walter Green

MARY M. SCARBERRY GREEN TAYLOR



Was born April 21, 1882, and departed this life March 8, 1972, making her stay on earth 89 years 10 months and 13 days. She passed away at Greenbrier Manor Nursing home at Fairlea, W. Va. She was the daughter of Jubel J. Scarberry and Rhoda Scarberry.

In the year of 1904 she was married to Elder Paris Phillip Green, who was a minister of the old Pineville District Association of Regular Baptist, and to this union were born six children, four boys and two girls, Elder Walter Green, Tams, W. Va., and Thomas N. Green Straughn, Indiana, Mrs. John (Malissie) Whitt Elkton, Md. and Mrs. Edward (Annie) Workman Massing, Idaho. She was preceded in death by her husband in June 1918. Also two sons preceded her in death. Hobert Green, who was killed in an accident August 25, 1943, and Elder Clifford Green who passed away January 25, 1972.

In the year of 1919 she was married to Harvey H. Taylor and to this union were born three children, Jubel J. Taylor of Winston Salem, N. C., and Mrs. Hermon (Beulah) Miller of Ballard, W. Va. and one son, Harvey H. Taylor, Jr. died in infancy. She was preceded in death by her late husband, Harvey H. Taylor, November 20, 1967.

Funeral service was held at 11 o'clock Saturday, March 11th, at the Broyles Funeral Chapel by Elder Hersey Lane officiating, and burial was in Orchard Cemetery, at Orchard, W. Va.

Surviving her are a great number of grandchildren and great grandchildren. Also great-great grandchildren.

As Ever a Brother in Christ
Walter Green

HENRY HARRISON GROSE

By request of the family I will write an obituary of Brother Henry Harrison Grose, who was eighty-eight years of age at death.

He was the son of the late Harrison and Dicie Cline Grose.

He was married when young in age to Sadie Lambert, to this union were born eighteen children, four of which (one daughter and three sons) preceded him in death.

Those who survive to mourn his loss are his widow sister Sadie Grose, eight daughters, Mrs. Howard Morris, Mrs. Louise Beggs, Mrs. Fowler Bailey, Mrs. Harold Bailey, Mrs. Albert Tilley, Mrs. Oscar Fulcher, Mrs. Ruby Anderson and Mrs. Estle Harrison; six sons, H. B. Grose, Sylvester, Virgil, Roby, Perry, and Teddy Grose.

This Brother as we knew him was very honest truthful and respectable in every way, by hard work and with the assistance of his wife raised a wonderful respectable family of sons and daughters, having owned and lived on a nice mountain farm until forced to retire because of ill health.

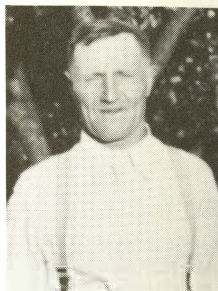
Many years ago Brother Grose aside from the material things of life made another wise and important choice, took our Lord Jesus Christ as his personal Saviour was baptized into the fellowship of the Elkhorn Church of Regular Baptist.

From thenceforth until death took him from the shores of time, lived a good consecrated Christian life, filling his seat in the church, sending his partition in prayer to the God of glory and grace, spiritually lifting up holy hands without wrath or doubting.

As the years passed by Brother Grose grew older became more feeble until it pleased God to call him home to rest, that peaceful rest made known to the world of mankind by a great voice which spoke from Heaven saying that they may rest from their labors and their works do follow them.

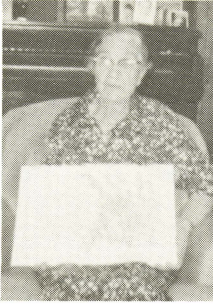
The Psalmist speaking of years and old age, which is certainly very fitting in this case, said the days of our years are three score years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore, yet is their strength labor and sorrow; for it is soon cut off and we fly away, fly to a city where there will be no death no parting, no pain where God's glory and the lamb is the light thereof.

In conclusion of this writing may I say to the widow and to each member of this wonderful Grose family, sons and daughters, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and all relatives and friends, may we just so be prepared in this life that when we are called, we may be ready to answer, and be able to hear our Saviour say come ye blessed of my Father and inherit a beautiful mansion prepared for us.



Written by
H. A. Lane

BELLE STILTNER



I will try by the help of the Lord to write a few lines in memory of my mother. Mother was born August 17, 1889, departed this life December 8, 1972, making her stay on earth 83 years 3 months, 21 days, she was the daughter of the late Mose and Martha Sifers Potter.

She was married to Fred Stiltner on August 6, 1908, and to this union were born nine children, three sons and six daughters, her husband and one son preceeded her in death, leaving two sons and six daughters to mourn their loss. We feel our loss is Heaven's gain.

Mother joined the Cedar Grove Church of the Union Association about sixty years ago and lived a faithful Christian life, in the later part of her life she moved her membership to the Sulphur Spring Church, mother was an old time Christian back before the automobile, she use to ride horseback to church, I remember her old side saddle she use to ride, Mother loved to see the brethren and sisters come after church and have lunch with her, Mother always had a tender feeling for orphans and widows, often helping them with food and clothing. Mother loved to go to church and fill her seat and enjoyed the preaching, often getting happy and shouting the praises of God, Mother was in bad health for about the last year of her life not able to go much but she always asked me about who preached and if we had a good meeting, her eyesight had started failing her, she would say she would love to go on to be with Jesus, would love to say to my brother and sisters remember the things Mother taught you, to be good to each other, live for Jesus and when this life is over we can meet with Mom and Dad, and all of our loved ones that died in a Triumph of a living faith, as we have been one family on earth we could be one family in Heaven.

Written by her son
Donald Stiltner

DELEGATES TO THE ASSOCIATION

ANTIOCH — Edward L. Cline, Arnold Green, Gene Green, John Blevins, Glen Morgan.

ELKHORN — Leonard Belcher, Robert Lane, Jim Day, Ayres Belcher, Jr., Donald Stiltner

FRIENDSHIP — Bryce Phillips, Lacy Phillips, Marvin Phillips, E. H. Buchannon, Glen Phillips

GUYANDOTTE — Ernest Lane, Paul Belcher, John Warren, Errie Lusk, Walter Smith

LITTLE BETHEL — Ernest French, Clifford Farley, Delmer Buchannon, Elmer Persionne

LITTLE VINE — Denny Bishop, Leslie Belcher, Calvin Belcher, Jr., Ralph Steele, Bill Mitchell

PEN RIDGE — Basil Rotenberry, James Sizemore, Ed Sizemore, Everette Sizemore, Lonnie Mullins

SAND GAP — Ivan Phillips, Jess Blankenship, Ballard Mills, Carl Mills, George Shrewsbury

BETHLEHEM — Frank Mann, Carroll Belcher, John J. Rinehart

NEW ZION — Sidney Dixon, Milburn Rinehart, Silas Lane, Vern Blankenship

NEW HOPE — Leonard Lester, Wesley Green, Carl Lester

BETHANY — Arthur Riffe, Arnold Fuller, Herbert Burks, Woodrow Morrison, George Ward

MYRTLE VALLEY — Ernest McKenzie, Jimmy Blankenship, Bobby Adams

LITTLE SAMARIAH — Elijah Roberts, Elbert Justice, Clell Burks, Harve Roberts

STONEY CREEK — James Taylor, Charlie Doddy

SWEET HOME — Doug Riffe, Denver Riffe, Lewis Belcher, Alvis Workman, Wilson Rowe

BURKS MEMORIAL — Cloyd Bailey, Robert Burks, Claude Conn, George Justus, Willie Burks

WHITE STONE — Cecil Coleman, Kenneth Cline, C. B. Lester, David Viers, Bobby Coleman

CHURCH CLERKS

ANTIOCH — Edward L. Cline P. O. Box 892, Welch, W. Va.
BETHANY — Mervyn Riffe Rt. 1, Box 477, Falls Mills, Va.
BETHLEHEM — Carroll Belcher Ballard, W. Va.
ELKHORN — Donald Stiltner Rt. 1, Box 80, Welch, W. Va.
FRIENDSHIP — E. H. Buchannon Maben, W. Va.
GUYANDOTTE — Walter Smith Herndon, W. Va.
LITTLE BETHEL — Earnest French . . Rt. 66, Box 214, Daniels, W. Va.
LITTLE SAMARIAH — Elijah Roberts Avondale, W. Va.
LITTLE VINE — Calvin W. Belcher Superior, W. Va.
MYRTLE VALLEY — Jimmy Blankenship Hensley, W. Va.
NEW HOPE — Leonard Lester Rt. 1, Box 36, Herndon, W. Va.
NEW ZION* — Milburn Rinehart . . 200 Mulberry Ave., Beckley, W. Va.
PEN RIDGE — Basil Rotenberry Box 836, Keystone, W. Va.
SAND GAP — Ivan Phillips Box 103, Mullens, W. Va.
STONEY CREEK — James E. Taylor Rt. 2, Box 157, Delta, Pa.
SWEET HOME — Don Lane Rt. 5, Box 78-A, Princeton, W. Va.
BURKS MEMORIAL — Cloyd Bailey Hurley, Va.
WHITE STONE — Kenneth Cline Rt. 3, Box 520, Bassett, Va.

ORDAINED MINISTERS

Name	Address
Bailey, Cloyd	Blackey, Va.
Belcher, Alvin M.	P. O. Box 813, Welch, W. Va.
Belcher, Calvin W.	Superior, W. Va.
Belcher, Cecil	Bluefield, W. Va.
Belcher, Hillard	Superior, W. Va.
Belcher, Morgan	Superior, W. Va.
Belcher, Paul	Herndon Heights, W. Va.
Burks, Clell	Panther, W. Va.
Burks, Harold	Rt. 1, Box 35, Welch, W. Va.
Cantrell, Acy	Rt. 1, Welch, W. Va.
Cecil, Archie	Corinne, W. Va.
Coleman, Cecil	
Conn, Claude	Star Route, Hurley, Va.
Gibson, Dave	Pineville, W. Va.
Green, B. J.	Kimball, W. Va.
Green, H. L.	Kimball, W. Va.
Greer, Sherman	Ballard, W. Va.
Justice, Elbert	Panther, W. Va.
Justice, Jim	Hurley, Va.
Lane, H. A.	Superior, W. Va.
Lane, James	Big Sandy, W. Va.
Lane, Melvin	Mullens, W. Va.
Lane, Robert	Rt. 5, Abingdon, Va.
Lester, Alvis	
Lester, Jack	Gilbert, W. Va.
Lester, William R.	Rt. 66, Box 283, Daniels, W. Va.
Lusk, Errie	
Marrs, Everett	Rt. 1, Box 63, Welch, W. Va.
McKinney, Wilbur	Box 13, Corinne, W. Va.
Phillips, Bryce	Saulsville, W. Va.
Rinehart, John J.	2805 Colvis St., Bluefield, W. Va.
Rinehart, V. D.	Ostego, W. Va.
Riffe, E. Graham	Rt. 1, Box 60, Iaeger, W. Va.
Riffe, Mervyn	Rt. 1, Box 477, Falls Mills, Va.
Rowe, A. W.	Box 64, Rt. 2, Princeton, W. Va.
Steele, Tarvin	Box 573, Northfork, W. Va.
Whitt, J. F.	Rt. 2, Box 144, Princeton, W. Va.
Whitt, John L.	Rt. 1, Box 217-A, Elkton, Md.

STATISTICAL TABLE

CHURCHES	Rec'd. by Ex. & Bap.	Restored	Rec'd. by Letter	Rec'd. by Recomm.	Dismissed by Letter	Excluded	Deceased	Total Members	Contributions	Church Times
Antioch	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	84	96.00	4
Elkhorn	12	0	1	0	1	0	2	101	135.25	2
Friendship	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	54	89.05	1
Guyandotte	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	86	71.25	1
Little Bethel	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	51	81.52	2
Little Vine	3	3	2	28	22	0	1	196	136.00	3
Pen Ridge	4	0	0	0	0	1	1	84	50.00	1
Sand Gap	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	85	87.00	4
Bethlehem	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	50	40.00	1
New Zion	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	88	49.00	3
New Hope	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	36	47.00	2
Bethany	10	0	0	0	1	0	4	114	69.00	1
Myrtle Valley	2	0	0	0	2	5	1	84	43.00	4
Little Samariah	1	0	0	15	0	2	1	56	40.00	2
Stoney Creek	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	35	20.00	4
Sweet Home	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	33	65.00	3
Burks Memorial	4	0	0	3	0	0	1	14	35.80	4
White Home	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	10.00	2
TOTALS	41	4	5	46	28	10	15	1,164.87		